

THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA



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THE PIONEER, MARCH, 1972

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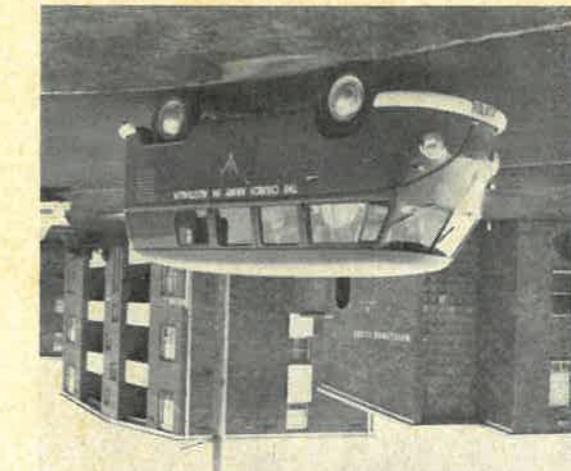
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If anybody reading this would like to help us meet the cost of this vehicle, any gift large or small, would be received with real gratitude and thanksgiving.

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If you now thoroughly understand what this vehicle costs almost \$300. We cannot afford to keep replaced. In the last few months essential repairs have been done on the road yet the College must have a reliable vehicle for the use of the Training College and for the use of the Training College.



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A Book Look . . .

of new work.
Undoubtedly, the days
us all a livelier faith in
dependence upon Him.

In summarising the outcome of conference it would be true to say that we were all challenged by the Holy Spirit with the necessity for "brecking new ground", in our spiritual lives and in our thinking; in our evangelistic endeavours and in the concept of our ministry in the light of our Lord's three-fold commission to His Church to Preach, to Teach and to Heal. At the same time, we were deeply challenged as a group about the future of our Society and its role in the life of the Church. Within the writer the vision of doubling our numbers within the next five years, bearing in mind all that this will entail in the training of new personnel, in within the next five years, bearing in mind all that this will entail in the training of new personnel, in administration and finance and in the establishment

There were also three very valuable sessions on "The Church's Healing Ministry." These were led for us by the Rev. Canon A. J. Glennon and they obviously met a real need in the lives of all or most of those who were present. A brief account of these sessions appears on pages 5 and 6.

The two sessions on domestic affairs of the Church Army provided an opportunity to discuss, among other things, various aspects of the Society's organisation. It may be as necessary for the Society's

The programme included a session entitled "The Church in the World," which was very ably chaired by Mr. Dick Manuel, one of our Board members. Mr. Manuel has written an account of this session which appears on page 5.

A special effort was made this time to cater for the whole of the Church Army family; officers, wives and children. We feel it is particularly important to think in terms of the corporate nature of the Church Army in our conferences and to encourage the fullest possible participation of all.

Our recent conference held from the 24th to 28th of last January, had the theme „**Breaking New Ground**.“ This seemed appropriate for a Society of evangelists who should always be ready, willing and eager to „break new ground“ in the proclaiming of the Gospel, by word and by deed. It also seemed appropriate in a special way regarding the situation facing the Church in general.

Every two years, in January, we hold a Staff Conference when all or most of our officers gather together in Sydney for four or five days. Long before each conference is held, months of prayer and preparation go into deciding the theme and contents of the programme.

EDITORIAL



{Miss Margaret Hope}.

For most of the children the camp was a new experience; for many it was fraught with difficulties to begin with, but for all it was an exciting, rewarding and enjoyable holiday. The counsellors equipped themselves admirably for the task of caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. They certainly displayed physical endurance on the outing to Katoomba, carrying children and wheelchairs up and down steps at Echo Point and swimming, craft work, games, singing and outings were enjoyed by all, but the spontaneity and exuberance which flowed forth from the impromptu activities had to be seen to be believed!

Two Society Staff attended the camp — a Social Worker who had had previous experience in camp and group work provided the link with the families and evaluated the camp as a whole; an Occupa-tional Therapist who had attended a similar sort of camp elsewhere, was able to guide the coun-selors in detailing with the physical and emotional limitations and capabilities of each child. A doctor and nurse were in residence at the camp.

The different types of disabilities were many and varied but the largest groups were Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and Spina Bifida. In order to cope with the many problems they presented, only a quarter of them were severely handicapped and in wheelchairs and the rest were moderately to mildly disabled.

It was no mean feat to organise such a camp, but with close cooperation between the Church of England Youth Department and the Society, collectors were schoolied, appropriate activities or-

attend a five day camp for disabled children at Blue Gum Lodge, Springwood.

When Captain Harris of the N.S.W. Society for Crippled Children approached the N.S.W. Society for Church Army children forty-eight children were chosen from the forty-eight children who had been admitted up to a whole new horizon for forty-eight children. At the same time his offer also won the admiration and support of the Staff who knew exactly what he was "letting himself in for."

With handicapped children, however, the picture is often very different as they can expect long periods of isolation from their school friends, usually the only friends they have. Loneliness and boredom so often cloud this happy time. Holiday camps give these children the opportunity to enjoy the companyship they so desperately need, and a chance to develop their independence; they also give parents a well earned rest.

Many people are aware that these camps are extremely worthwhile, but problems associated with unusualable architecture and inaccessible camping sites have deterred many a well meaning person, not to mention the number of handicapped people who have been unable to benefit from the facilities offered by the campsite.

The Christians' ministry break is undoubtedly the time that most schoolchildren look forward to with the greatest enthusiasm, especially if it can be shared with others.



OF THE YOUNG CAMPERS.
MISS HOPE WITH TWO
STORY TIME.

